

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

A N N U A L     R E P O R T

OF

DR. K.G. COLLINS.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR

YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1960.





THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PORTISHEAD.

"ST. MARTIN'S",  
LONG ASHTON,  
BRISTOL.

TELEPHONE; LONG ASHTON 3140

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1960.

Medical Officer of Health	Dr. M. C. O'Connor, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Engineer and Surveyor	M. F. Gilbert,
Housing Manager and Public Health Inspector	W. H. Green,
Building Inspector	G. J. Lidbury,

Committees concerned with matters related to Public Health:-

Works Committee,  
Health Committee,  
Housing Committee,  
Tenancy Committee,  
Accident Prevention Committee.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Urban District Council of Portishead.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit this Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the District through the year. The information therein is, so far as possible, in conformity with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, as laid down, together with other material I feel worthy of record and comment.

1. POPULATION.

As assessed by the Registrar General for mid 1960:- 5,980

Rateable Value (31.12.60) £242,360

Product of Penny Rate £1,003

2. AREA. 1,119 acres.

Number of permanent dwellings:- 1,855

3. VITAL STATISTICS.

(a) Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	67	68	135
Illegitimate	6	3	9
Totals	73	71	144

(b) Live Birth Rate (Corrected for age distribution of population).

24.0 per 1,000 population.

Of the 144 births, 44 occurred in the District - 30%.

VITAL STATISTICS (Contd).

- (c) Still Births. 1 male and 1 female.  
Total 2.

The stillbirth rate is 13.7 per 1,000 total live and still births.

- (d) Infant Deaths.

<u>Age.</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Under 1 week	1	-	1
1 to 4 weeks	1	-	1
1 to 12 months	-	-	-
Totals	1	-	2

One suffered from congenital abnormalities. The other died prematurely born. Neither was illegitimate.

- (e) Mortality Rates (\*)

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	14.0
" " " " " legitimate births	14.8
" " " " " illegitimate births	Nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (first 4 weeks) per 1,000 related live births	14.0
Early neo-natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 related live births	7.0
Peri-natal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths during first week) per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	20.5
Percentage of illegitimate live births	6.2
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortions)	Nil

(\*) These figures are of little significance, owing to the small numbers involved; one case, either way, producing a distorted result.

- (f) Deaths (all ages).

Total number of deaths during the year 75

Death Rate (corrected) 13.9 per 1,000

That for England and Wales for 1960 was 11.6

Deaths - Causes - (Registrar General's Figures).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	-	-
Cancer, Stomach	2	-	2
" Lungs and Bronchus	4	-	4
" Breast	-	-	-
" Uterus	-	-	-
" Other	8	2	10
Vascular Disease Nervous System (Strokes)	6	3	9
Coronary Heart Disease	13	8	21
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
Other Heart disease	2	6	8
Other Circulatory disease	2	-	2
Pneumonia	2	3	5
Bronchitis	2	1	3
Other Respiratory disease	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	-	-	-
Prostate Hyperplasia	-	-	-
Carried forward	43	24	65



VITAL STATISTICS (Contd).Deaths - Causes (Contd).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Brought forward	43	24	65
Congenital Deformities	1	-	1
Other and ill-defined disease	2	3	5
Motor Accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	-	1
<u>Totals</u>	48	27	73

Age Distribution.

Under 1 year	2	-	2
1 and under 5	-	1	1
5 and under 15	-	-	-
15 and under 45	-	5	5
45 and under 65	12	3	15
65 and under 75	7	6	13
75 and over	21	18	39
<u>Totals</u>	42	33	75

The average age of the last group      82      83

The rise in the death rate was due to the fact that a large number of persons over the age of 80 died during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

The following numbers of cases of notifiable disease were reported during the year:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Received.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-	-
Measles	29	-	-
Dysentery	4	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-
Influenzal Pneumonia	3	-	-
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	5	4	-
"    Other	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

3 Male      2 Female      All Respiratory.

The Register shows the following number of cases in Portishead at the end of the year:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Pulmonary	15	14	29
Non-pulmonary	-	3	3

TUBERCULOSIS (Contd).

Mass Radiography.

The South Western Hospital Board's Unit visited Portishead again at the end of the year, with a session at the National Nautical School. No case of active tuberculosis was found but one case of emphysema and one case of pulmonary fibrosis. In all 129 people were examined.

6. IMMUNISATION.

The following figures are supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health. The work is carried out by the general practitioners and at school or welfare clinics.

Diphtheria.

Primary Immunisation.

The following number completed a full course during 1960:-

137 - practically all of whom were 1 year or under.

Re-inforcing Injections:- 187 in the 5 - 9 group only.

Completed Courses since January 1st, 1955.

The following numbers of children have completed a course of immunisation (whether primary or booster) within the last 6 years:- 934

Whooping Cough.

The following number of children completed primary course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the year:-

99 (including 96 infants of 1 or under).

Poliomyelitis.

Number of persons who received a course of primary vaccination (two injections) and of persons who received a third injection during 1960:-

Under 18 years	-	309
" 28 "	-	117
" 40 "	-	226
Over 40 "	-	6
Total		<u>658</u>

Smallpox.

Number of persons vaccinated during 1960:- 100 including 86 infants of 1 or under.

Number of persons re-vaccinated during 1960:- 18.

7. GENERAL PROVISION OF MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Laboratory facilities for bacteriological purposes are provided by the Public Health Laboratories at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton and at Canynge Hall, Whatley Road, Bristol and for analytical purposes at the County Laboratory, County Hall, Taunton. Atmospheric Pollution analyses are carried out through Dr. W.V. James, appointed by this Council.

The County Medical Officer of Health and his Staff are responsible for the active operation of the Health Services under the National Health Service Acts, 1946-52. They include:-



GENERAL PROVISION OF MEDICAL HEALTH SERVICES (Contd).

Maternity and Child Welfare,  
Home Helps,  
Mental Health,  
Venereal Disease,  
School Medical Service,  
Ambulance Service,

Tuberculosis,  
Home Nursing and Health Visitors,  
Welfare Needs,  
Public Health Laboratories,  
Immunisation,

The Area Home Help Organiser is:-

Miss K.Jenkins,  
National Provincial Bank,  
Clevedon.

The District Nurses are:-

The Misses E.I.Marchant, A.Wintle,  
and D.Robinson,  
1 & 3, Link Road South,  
Portishead.

The School Medical Officer is:-

Dr.M.J.Cooke,  
Berwick Lodge,  
19, Victoria Road,  
Clevedon.

Ambulance.

An ambulance is stationed in Portishead and works in conjunction with the Clevedon centre. It is manned by full-time staff.

Number of patients carried - 2,497  
Number of journeys made - 926

Total mileage:- 36,339 miles.

All hospitals are under the control of the South Western Hospital Board and infectious diseases are admitted to Ham Green Hospital, which is also a General Hospital. I have continued to receive reports on cases admitted from the District, in common with the General Practitioners.

8. OLD FOLKS ASSOCIATION.

This active organisation receives an annual grant from the Council of £10.

9. RED CROSS SOCIETY'S FIRST AID STATION.

This almost unique and valuable service to the community has continued to carry on during the year under its Commandant, Mrs.Phyllis Wicks. Vacancies among its officers were replaced and the number of staff has actually increased. Two auxiliary stations have operated at Nore Road and Redcliffe Bay. Two courses of training in nursing were taken and all passed their examinations. Some members took hospital training at Ham Green and Weston-super-Mare. All staff work voluntarily.

First Aid Post 1960:-

Treatments 3175  
Heat Massage 655  
Ultra Violet 10

Foot Clinics at:-

Redcliffe Bay,  
Portishead,  
Clapton,  
Portbury,

Blood Sessions (Two)

Donors 248 (119 and 129).

The Post was inspected and received well deserved congratulations.

RED CROSS SOCIETY'S FIRST AID STATION (Contd).

The Commandant is proud of her Station and grateful for all the help from her staff and those "un-uniformed" members who support her in raising funds. The Collection of silver paper, foil etc. is one source of income in which they would gladly receive help.

10. WATER SUPPLY.

Water is available as piped supply to all houses in the District and is supplied by Bristol Waterworks Company. There has been no shortage at any time on account of a very wet summer. However, the Company found it necessary to supply larger quantities from Chelvey, whose water is of great hardness.

The water is regularly examined bacteriologically by the Company. One sample from a spring supply at St.Mary's Road proved to be of doubtful purity, but further examinations enabled us to remove restrictions.

The following is the result of examination carried out at the County Laboratory by the Public Analyst, Miss Joan D.Penden B.Sc.,

All results are expressed as parts per million.

	<u>March, 1959.</u>	<u>March, 1960.</u>
Physical Characters	Clear, bright.	Clear and bright.
Reaction	Slightly alkaline.	Very slightly alkaline.
pH	7.9	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide		3.0
Total Solids	280.0	300.0
Total Alkalinity (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> )	220.0	215.0
Carbonate Hardness " "	190.0	215.0
Non-Carbonate Hardness "	50.0	60.0
Total Hardness " "	240.0	275.0
Chloride (as Cl)	23.0	18.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (as N)	0.01	0.046
Albuminoid " "	0.074	0.032
Nitrate " "	1.0	1.6
Nitrite " "	0.024	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 27° C.	0.9	0.15
Sediment	Nil	NONE
Free Chlorine	Nil	0.1
Total Chlorine	Nil	0.1
Zinc, Lead and Iron	Nil	Nil
Copper	Nil	0.2

Extensions to Supply.

These were made as needed for housing development.

11. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Except for part of Nore Road, Wetlands Lane and some dwellings at Down Road near the Long Ashton Rural District at Redcliffe Bay, the District is fully sewered. Cesspits and septic tanks are in use in the excluded areas. Development in these areas has made the provision of sewerage a priority. The Housing Estates have separate foul and surface water systems, whereas most of the town is served by the older joint system.



SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL (Contd).

Extensions, New Works and Improvements.

Completed.

- (i) Construction of large grit trap at Harbour Road to prevent fly-ash entering sewers.
- (ii) General maintenance including sewer dragging.
- (iii) New gas-tight covers fitted to Manholes in Lake Grounds and elsewhere.

In Progress.

- (i) General maintenance.
- (ii) Necessary extension of sewers for private enterprise development is being carried out by contractors.

Future proposals.

	<u>Approx. Cost.</u>
	£
(i) Automatic control for High Street Ejectors	85
(ii) Recorder apparatus to be installed for Bristol Road Pump.	80
(iii) Nore Park and Redcliffe Bay sewers scheme with separate outfall with provision for connection by Long Ashton R.D.C. sewers.	38,000
(iv) Wetlands Lane/Clevedon Road sewer extension to pick-up development in Wetlands Lane and sewerage from North Weston in Long Ashton R.D.C. scheme will also involve new pumps at Bristol Road, a new rising main and construction of a relief sewer.	26,000
(v) Culverting surface water ditch at Wetlands Lane.	100
(vi) Grit trap at east end of Harbour Road.	250

Flooding of Sewers.

I am pleased to inform you that there were very few instances of flooding in Portishead in 1960. The general pattern of maintenance work over the last four years of regular gully pot emptying, grit trap emptying, sewer dragging and ditch clearing, together with the provision of additional flushing supplies and flushing work has cleaned out a number of blocked or partially blocked foul and surface water sewers thereby reducing flooding from a frequent occurrence to a rare one.

The only incidents of flooding occurring to my knowledge in 1960 were due to locally blocked gully gratings causing a local flood on the road in a storm. There were no cases of sewage from the sewers being forced out by flood water.

12. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is removed by direct labour, using one Karrier Diesel Refuse Truck, supplemented by an Austin 3-ton lorry, fitted with a Homogarth removable refuse top when required.

Road gullies and sewer grit traps are emptied twice a year by contract by the Council.

Cesspool emptying is done by private arrangement with a contractor.

House and trade refuse are disposed of by controlled tipping in one tip.

13. SALVAGE.

Salvage is carried out by the staff, to provide the following revenue:-

	<u>Weight.</u>			<u>Value.</u>		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Paper	101	18	0	633.	6.	7.
Metals & Rags	32	3	3	237.	6.	10.
			Total	£870.	13.	5.

14. CAMPING SITES.

	<u>Permanent.</u>	<u>Seasonal.</u>
(a) Number of licensed individual movable dwellings,	1	nil
(b) Number of licensed camping sites	1	nil
(c) Maximum number of caravans allowed per acre	10	nil
(d) Estimated number of campers resident during the year.	36	10

15. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

New conveniences erected at Station Road at approximate cost of £1,750.

16. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

One of the Housing Manager's staff has had the necessary training and is employed part-time on these duties and this efficiently deals with the problem within the area of the District.

17. HOUSING.

Action taken during the year:-

Clearance Areas, Sects.42, 48 & 17 (individual unfits) - No action required.

All temporary dwellings, except 19 'Prefabs' had been demolished.

Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 (capable of repair)	Nil
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Number of houses made fit during the year	14
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Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule).

Certificates of Disrepair:-

(a) Number of applications received	Nil
(b) Number of certificates issued	Nil

Houses erected during the year.

By Council	17
By Private Enterprise	71

Houses in course of erection at 31.12.60.

By Council	10
By Private Enterprise	67

Gained from conversion of large houses.

By Council	2
By Private Enterprise	1

Number of Post-war Houses (1.4.1945 to 31.12.60).

By Council	528
By Private Enterprise	304



HOUSING (Contd).

Total Number of Permanent Dwellings.

	<u>At 31.12.59.</u>	<u>Added.</u>	<u>At 31.12.60.</u>
Owned by Council	577	19 (Less two sold privately).	594
Owned by Private individuals	1,187	72	1,261
Totals	1,764	91	1,855

Old People's Dwellings.

Number erected - 30 including two for wardens.  
 No further dwellings were erected during the year.  
 Waiting list - 33.

Number of Temporary Housing units occupied.

(1) Prefabs	19
(2) Huts	Nil

Number of Houses found overcrowded. (No survey was undertaken).

Houses required.

(i) To replace house schedule for demolition including prefabs	19
(ii) To abate overcrowding	5
(iii) For other purposes (4-bedroom houses) (Old People's Bungalows)	Nil
	As many as practicable with existing economy and building space.

Total number of applications for Council Houses at the end of the year 29

Total number of Council houses sold during the year 2

Housing Programme, 1960.

As stated in last year's report, the Council has concentrated on the erection of 4-bedroomed houses for larger families now satisfactorily housed in 3-bedroom houses and substantial progress of the work of the erection of ten such houses was made during the year. Erection of a further 10 bungalows in Slade Road for old people adjoining the main shopping centre was also approved and it is proposed to develop further land in this area for this purpose now that the Ministry have approved the Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of additional land.

Some difficulties in the re-housing of the tenants of the prefabricated bungalows at the West Hill Estate is being encountered/ in view of the re-siting of the main access road through the estate but it is the intention of the Council to re-house the tenants from these bungalows in existing accommodation as and when it becomes available, the site of the bungalows to be used for permanent house building.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

A. Discretionary.

Number of applications received	7
Number of houses involved	7
Number of applications approved	7
Number of houses involved	8
Number of applications approved in respect of owner/occupiers	4



IMPROVEMENT GRANTS (Contd).

A. Discretionary (Contd).

Average cost per dwelling approved	£629
Amount of grant payable by Council	£1,586

One of the owner/occupier grants provided for the making of an additional flat.

B. Standard.

Number of applications received	12
Number approved	11
Standard Amenities	-- 6 provided.

18. FOOD.

Milk.

(a) Number of Registered Distributors	4
(b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms)	2
(c) Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk	4
(d) Number of supplementary licenses issued to distributors whose dairy is outside the area.	5

Milk sampling is carried out by the County Authority and found satisfactory.

Ice Cream.

(a) Number of premises registered for manufacture and retail.	Nil.
(b) For Manufacture only	Nil.
(c) For Retail only	19.

Samples were taken from those selling open ice cream and all were found to be satisfactory.

19. FOOD HYGIENE.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Action taken during the year.

Further supervision of requested improvements and alterations to shops and licensed premises has been undertaken, but it has not been necessary to resort to statutory action.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There is none in the District, but in anticipation of the required report under the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order all interested parties were consulted.

Premises where Food is prepared.

There are ten premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 for the preparation of Ice Cream, Meat Products etc.

20. ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Clean Air Act, 1956.

The question of atmospheric pollution, particularly concerning the Central Electricity Generating Board's Power Station and the Phosphorus Factory of Messrs. Albright & Wilson Ltd., is under constant review and regular analyses from deposit gauges are made under the supervision of

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION (Contd).

Clean Air Act, 1956 (Contd).

Dr.G.V.James. The continual rise in atmospheric pollution was probably due to the excessive rainfall which was over 50% higher than 1959. During the past year the positions of the gauges and sulphur candles were moved on the advice of Dr.James and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research were notified accordingly.

In addition there is a consultative committee with Messrs.Albright & Wilson Ltd. which meets periodically to discuss any matter of complaint.

During the year a series of observations of white smoke emissions from stacks and buildings during daylight and darkness were taken in the early part of the summer at Messrs.Albright & Wilson's Ltd. in an attempt to establish whether emissions were greater during darkness when staff was reduced. No positive conclusions were reached and further observations are to be made when the factory is on peak loading.

Reasonably close liason had also been maintained with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

21. FACTORIES ACT, 1957 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1960.

Part I of the Act.

- (1) Inspections for the purposes or provisions as to health (including those made by the Public Health Inspector).

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
(i) Factories in which Sects.1,2,3,4 & 6 are enforced by L.A.	17	20	- Nil -	
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A.	13	15	- Nil -	
(iii) Other factories in which Sect.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding out-workers premises).	5	8	- Nil -	
Total	35	43	- Nil -	

22. CONCLUSION.

This has been another year of consolidation and steady progress in the Council's activities. The District remains a very healthy one in which to live. The chief housing demands have been for old people's bungalows and a marked expansion in private enterprise development giving a 4% increase in population and houses built over 1959. There still remains a considerable need for the re-housing of old people and the Council have made detailed and advanced steps to eradicate these.

The careful and systematic maintenance and improvements carried out by the Engineer and Surveyor of the District's sewer system has resulted in a practical elimination of past problems in this direction. A considerable achievement when considering difficulties involved.



CONCLUSION (Contd).

Atmospheric pollution has become an inevitable part of our daily lives in a district which now carries quite a large amount of heavy industry. We must never be content until methods can be adequately devised to rid our atmosphere of these obnoxious and unhealthy products whose presence are a blemish on an otherwise comparatively clean area.

Our standards of hygiene are continually rising in the preparation and sale of all edible goods and there have been few complaints and no prosecutions during the year.

Immunisation for diptheria and poliomyelitis was quite satisfactory regarding the younger age groups but I would like to see more people over the age of 30 years coming forward for poliomyelitis immunisation.

In conclusion I would like to express my appreciation to the Chairman and Members of the Council together with the Clerk and officers in their careful understanding and enthusiasm in furthering the development of better health and cleanliness in our District.

Yours faithfully,

K.G.Collins, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



PORTISHEAD - ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

1960.

MONTHLY RESULTS.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
<u>Rainfall (Inches).</u>													
Average for 1959 = 25.23													
Gordano School	1.81	1.26	-	1.54	0.79	0.87	2.96	5.16	4.43	5.08	5.17	4.17	33.24
South Road	2.72	1.93	1.5	1.5	0.83	1.34	2.64	4.77	5.04	5.36	5.32	4.33	37.28
Portishead Dock	2.63	1.93	1.18	1.62	0.75	1.50	4.49	5.16	4.77	5.36	5.17	4.23	38.79
Average for 1960 = 38.03													
<u>Total Solids (tons/sq.mile).</u>													
Gordano School	13.75	22.50	-	12.77	11.13	7.28	13.78	14.62	12.07	30.10	10.73	7.94	226.67
South Road	21.1	14.8	16.17	18.65	17.01	10.25	20.9	16.55	16.44	21.6	17.34	17.34	208.15
Portishead Dock	21.85	24.82	24.32	24.95	23.22	11.77	65.8	14.57	27.99	14.94	14.54	23.02	291.79
<u>Sulphur by Lead Peroxide Method.</u>													
<u>Weight of SO<sub>2</sub> in mgm. per 100 sq.cm. per day.</u>													
<u>Average.</u>													
South Road	0.76	0.61	1.72	0.76	0.35	0.48	0.10	0.19	0.61	0.66	0.41	0.58	0.52
Gordano School	0.51	0.58	0.35	0.67	0.46	0.66	0.24	0.34	0.35	0.64	0.52	1.22	0.54
Station Road	0.77	0.66	1.15	0.49	0.42	0.48	0.12	0.23	0.56	0.70	0.36	0.77	0.56
Portishead Dock	0.99	1.13	1.80	0.49	0.89	0.81	0.35	0.64	0.72	2.33	0.53	1.34	8.00

Abstracted from Reports of Dr.G.V.James, through the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

